

### Torah Parasha Project

The purpose of this project is to provide you with the experience of developing a deep knowledge of a Torah portion. For most of you, it will be your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Torah portion, but for some others, it will be one of your choice if your B'nei Mitzvah celebration has already passed or if you are not having a "typical" synagogue celebration. The final product of this project is to be a reflection of what you have personally learned from your studies of the *parasha* over the course of the entire project. There are no right or wrong answers, only a proper format and content areas, which you are expected to fulfill. **This project is to be completed individually, whether or not you share your *parasha* with another student in the class.** You are welcome to study the text together to begin the assignments, but the project is individual and must be completed as such.

**This project is to be completed within the VTT Google docs domain** with all documents being shared with Rabbi Bellas AND Morah Tiki. Using Google docs allows us to be able to comment and edit assignments without paper printouts and to do so from any location with internet access. **A document need be shared only once in order for us to have access to it.** We are notified any time that edits have been made. **Documents created outside of Google docs will not be accepted or marked.** If you create an assignment outside of that domain, please copy and paste it into Google docs. The assignments for the project are the following:

ASSIGNMENT	DESCRIPTION
SUMMARY	<p>You will read your entire <i>parasha</i> in English and then summarize the plot of the text <b><u>in your own words</u></b>. Copying or paraphrasing a summary from another source will not be accepted and will be considered a violation of the plagiarism policies of the school. The summary should be approximately one single-spaced page in length.</p> <p>The title of the assignment must include the name of the <i>parasha</i> and the citation of book, chapter and verse range for the entire <i>parasha</i> (eg. Parashat Vayikra, Leviticus 2:10-5:7). Don't forget to start your bibliography with whatever websites or other sources you used for this assignment.</p>
GLOSSARY	<p>You will choose at least 10 biblical Hebrew keywords from the <i>parasha</i> <b><u>that are central to the understanding of the text</u></b> for this assignment. Morah Tiki will advise students of different Hebrew levels regarding selections of words that meet each student's abilities. <b><u>Trying to use Google translate from English to Hebrew will not work for this assignment</u></b> as the translator does not go from English to biblical Hebrew. You must use the original biblical Hebrew source for your words.</p> <p>The finished assignment must include: a proper title (same format as the first assignment), the biblical Hebrew word from the Torah, the translation, and the complete <i>pasuk</i> from which you took the word. Don't forget to add to your bibliography, if necessary.</p>
FAVORITE PASUK	<p>You will choose one <i>pasuk</i> from your <i>parasha</i> that stands out either as your favorite <i>pasuk</i>, for one reason or another, or as a <i>pasuk</i> that really captures what this <i>parasha</i> is all about. You will thoughtfully explain your selection of this <i>pasuk</i> in a minimum of one full and complete paragraph. Once a first draft is complete, Rabbi Bellas will provide feedback and questions to further push your thinking and understanding of your selected <i>pasuk</i>.</p> <p>This assignment must include a title with the book, chapter, and verse citation of the <i>pasuk</i> and its text in Hebrew and English. Don't forget to add to your bibliography, if necessary.</p> <p>If you were at VTT in Grade 5, you will also add an audio recording of your <i>pasuk</i> chanted with correct Torah trope to this assignment. Rabbi Bellas will assist you with refreshing your memory of the trope, if necessary. Any student studying a text from outside the Torah will have the option of learning a taste of the special trope for that text to include with this assignment.</p>
SELECTED COMMENTARY	<p>From your reading of the entire <i>parasha</i>, you will select a piece of text or a word that requires further exploration. Once you have chosen something that you would like to explore more deeply, you will choose <b><u>two different commentaries, preferably one traditional (like Rashi) and one modern</u></b> to study for this assignment. For this assignment, you will complete the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Copy and paste the text being commented upon in Hebrew and English.</li> <li>2) Copy and paste or type in the text of the commentary.</li> <li>3) Research the commentator and provide some details about his life and times.</li> <li>4) Summaries of the commentaries written in your own words, including a clear answer to the question: "WHAT WAS BOTHERING THE COMMENTATOR?" (What question was the commentator trying to answer with his commentary?)</li> <li>5) An explanation of how this commentary added to your understanding of the text.</li> <li>6) Bibliography citations on your bibliography assignment.</li> </ol>

PERSONAL STATEMENT	<p>This assignment is focused on your overall learning from the <i>parasha</i> and the project. You will discuss lessons you learned from the <i>parasha</i> and skills that you learned from the project.</p> <p>This assignment must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What are some facts from the <i>parasha</i> that you didn't know before? Don't be afraid to say that this is the first time you had ever studied this <i>parasha</i> in depth.</li> <li>2) What are some skills that you developed or learned from this project?</li> <li>3) What are two BIG IDEAS (major lessons/morals of the <i>parasha</i> captured in a catchphrase) that can be taken away from this <i>parasha</i> that you find meaningful and relevant?</li> <li>4) How can the lessons of this <i>parasha</i> be applied today?</li> </ol>
BIBLIOGRAPHY	A properly formatted and complete bibliography that includes citations for all books and websites used for research on this project.
BIG IDEAS POSTER	<p>You will create a <b>double-sided</b> poster for your two big ideas, with one big idea on each side of the poster. The poster will be hung in the hallways of the school to celebrate and display our learning this year. Each side of the poster must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The big idea</li> <li>2) The name of the <i>parasha</i> and citation of book, chapters, and verses</li> <li>3) Your name</li> <li>4) Any images or pictures you would like to include</li> </ol>
TITLE PAGE	The booklet that you create with all of your assignments needs a cover page. Your cover page should be a reflection of the learning you achieved throughout the project. Therefore, the title page must include the name of your <i>parasha</i> , the language of your BIG IDEAS, and some visual images that support or match the messages and content of your <i>parasha</i> .
IN-CLASS PRESENTATION	When the projects are completed, each student will be making a brief presentation to the class to discuss their learning and lessons from the <i>parasha</i> . The format for the presentation is up to the student, but must be approved by Morah Tiki or Rabbi Bellas. We will provide details of what should be included in your presentation in the Spring.

There are many websites that will assist you in your research and preparation of this project. We will provide you with a few on the wiki page to get you started, but you are responsible for your own research and determining the reliability of websites. Of course, all of your sources (books or websites) must be included in your bibliography.

Good luck!!

### SAMPLE TITLES FOR DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENTS:

Parashat Va'ethanan/HEBREW  
Deuteronomy/HEBREW 3:23-7:11  
Summary or Glossary

Parashat Va'ethanan/HEBREW  
Deuteronomy/HEBREW 4:5  
Favorite Pasuk or Commentary